AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1.   (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:

receiving energy rating data at an on-premise processor transmitted by a distribution
network from a host processor and storing the energy rating data in a memory, the
rating data including a schedule pertaining to time and energy costs;

receiving at the on-premise processor a message from an end device requesting energy
rating data, ~~the end device controlling load activation,~~ and wherein the message is
communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless communication
link relaying the message through at least one other end device;

retrieving the energy rating data from the memory and sending a response message
including the energy rating data using the wireless communications link from the
on-premise processor to the end device; ~~and~~

determining <u>independently</u> in the end device whether to generate an activation signal
based at least in part on the energy rating data[[.]]<u>; and</u>

<u>the end device allowing or reducing power load consumption according to the</u>
<u>determination.</u>

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a
power load.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a
power generator.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the energy rating data further
comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period
associated with a second usage rate.

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5.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the end device determines whether to activate the power load based at least in part on the current time.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly using an 802.15.4- based communications link.

8.   (Currently amended) A method for energy management, comprising:
sending an energy rate request message from an end device to a host processor, ~~appliance, the appliance controlling load activation, and~~ wherein the request
message is communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless
communication link relaying the message through at least one other ~~appliance~~ end
device;
receiving at the end device an energy rate schedule from the host processor ~~at the~~
~~appliance~~ using the wireless communication link, the energy rate schedule
comprising a first time period for a first usage rate and a second time period for a
second usage rate; ~~and~~
determining independently in the ~~appliance~~ end device whether to activate a power
load based in part on the energy rate schedule and a current time[[.]]; and
the end device allowing or reducing power load consumption according to the
determination.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of claim [[6]] 9 further comprising storing the energy rate schedule in a memory in the ~~appliance~~ end device.

10.   (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:

receiving at an on-premise processor a first request message from an end device

      pertaining to energy rating data, ~~the end device controlling load activation, and~~

      wherein the first request message is communicated using a wireless

      communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the first request

      message through at least one other end device;

sending from the on-premise processor a second request message over a

      distribution network to the host processor, the second request message

      pertaining to energy rating data;

receiving at the on-premise processor a first rating response message over the

      distribution network from the host processor, the first rating response

      message including energy rating data;

sending from the on-premise processor to the end device a second rating response

      message using the wireless communication link, the second rating response

      message including the energy rating data; ~~and~~

determining <u>independently</u> in the end device whether to generate an activation signal

      based at least in part on the energy rating data[[.]]<u>; and</u>

<u>the end device allowing or reducing power load consumption according to the</u>

      <u>determination.</u>

11.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the activation signal

activates a power load.

12.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the activation signal

activates a power generator.

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the end device further

determines whether to activate the power load based on the current time.

14.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the energy rating data comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period associated with a second usage rate.

15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the power load activated is one from the group of an air conditioning unit, an induction motor, a compressor, and a heating load.

16-74. (Canceled)

75.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

76.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

77.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.